



Laguna Honda Hospital and Rehabilitation Center: Two fires. Assaults on patients and staff. What's next?

For continuing updates, visit: www.stopLHHdownsize.com

Neighborhood Alert!

Are you aware of what is going on at Laguna Honda Hospital (LHH)?

LHH has drastically changed its admissions policy. No longer is its primary focus on San Francisco's elderly. Virtually all patients are now coming from S.F. General Hospital, to the near exclusion of patients from home and other San Francisco Hospitals. LHH was not built for this purpose.

LHH doctors have been pressured to admit dangerous patients who can not be managed there. There has been an increase in younger, transient, and less disabled patients with psychiatric and addiction problems being brought into LHH.

LHH does not have the security in place to protect current patients, hospital staff, nor neighborhoods that surround it. There has been an increase in violent and aggressive incidents, including a major arson fire within LHH's current facility.

Current policy changes have also resulted in citations against LHH from State Licensing, as well as from Cal-OSHA. These citations involve LHH's increasing population of dangerous patients, without an appropriate safety plan having been implemented and put into place beforehand.

An increase of homeless admissions to LHH has recently resulted in encampments around the Laguna Honda reservoir and neighboring areas. In October, a homeless camp started a fire on the LLH grounds that, thankfully, the Fire Department was able to contain.

There are also several elementary schools that surround LHH. We don't want our children placed at risk!

In 1999 voters approved Prop A, a \$300 million bond measure to rebuild LHH, with the primary intent to house San Francisco's frail elderly. The will of voters is not being followed.

When these issues were recently discussed with Dr. Katz, Director of San Francisco's Department of Public Health, he replied that LHH is part of the City's health program and he could set any policy he wants. Katz has announced his intention to convert Laguna Honda into a "social rehabilitation center for the urban poor."

As your neighbor, we need your involvement. These issues, and others, will be discussed at a:

TOWN HALL MEETING

Thursday, December 16, 2004 • 7:00 p.m.

St. Brendan's Parish Hall

200 Ulloa Street (Ulloa/Laguna Honda Blvd)

For more information call John Farrell at 218-6337.

BE THERE, IF YOU CARE!!